

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A device for ~~the~~ protection of an electrode (4) during ~~the~~ resistance welding of workpieces, ~~particularly metal sheets (6, 7),~~ including a strip (1) placed over the electrode (4), ~~preferably in a manner displaceable relative to the same,~~ means for holding the strip over the electrode, and means for driving the strip, wherein the strip (1) is comprised of at least two superimposed metal strips (2, 3) made of different materials, said metal strips (2, 3) of the electrode protection strip being exclusively positively connected by rabbeting, gluing, stamping or welding.

2. (Currently Amended) A protection device according to claim 1, wherein ~~the material of~~ the metal strip (2) facing the electrode (4) is made from a material that ~~exhibits little tendency to adhering~~ does not adhere to the a material of the

electrode (4), and ~~the material of the metal strip (3) facing the workpiece, particularly metal sheet (6, 7), exhibits little tendency to adhering~~ is made from a material that does not adhere to the a material of the workpiece.

3. (Currently Amended) A protection device according to claim 1, wherein ~~the material of the metal strip (2) facing the electrode (4)~~ is made from a material selected from the group consisting of ferrous metals, or and an alloy having its main component selected being from the group of ferrous metals, and wherein the material of the metal strip (3) facing the workpiece to be welded, particularly metal sheet (6, 7), is made of copper or a copper alloy.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) A protection device according to claim 1, wherein ~~the material of the metal strip (2, 3) and, in particular, of the metal strip (2) facing the electrode (4)~~ has a melting temperature of above 1000 °C ~~and/or~~ a conductivity of above 1 m/(Ω *mm²).

5. (Canceled).

6. (Canceled).

7. (Previously Presented) A protection device according to claim 1, wherein the metal strips (2, 3) are superimposed in a congruent manner.

8. (Previously Presented) A protection device according to claim 1, wherein the metal strips (2, 3) are arranged so as to be displaceable relative to each other.

9. (Previously Presented) A protection device according to claim 8, wherein the metal strips (2, 3) are arranged so as to be displaceable at different speeds.

Claims 10-22: Canceled.